

floor because it was the feeling of the body that I would address the issue through LB 716 which was at the head of the General File list. I was...I introduced LB 1098 with good intentions of having LB 1098 become the vehicle and just to let 716 go away. I discussed this with Speaker Barrett. He had agreed to that and that is why LB 716 comes up at this late hour and I did not ask that it be addressed in its normal order as it would have come up after the bracket fell off that we put on last year. LB 1098, I then asked the committee to kill the bill. They did that. The amendment that I have before the body and LB 716 is an amendment that includes all of LB 1098. It includes amendments that were suggested at the public hearing by Secretary of State Beermann. It includes amendments that the committee suggested in their Executive Session when they dealt with the topic and includes one other amendment that I put into the bill that the committee did not have time to discuss or, at least, decide on. They did discuss it but they did not have the opportunity to decide on it at that time. I have the amendment filed and it's in the Journal. Mr. Clerk, what page of the Journal is that amendment? Oh, it's not in the Journal, it's in the bill book, isn't it? Yes. It is filed separately and it's in the front of your bill book, if you turn to LB 716 and it's clearly marked that it's the amendments to 716, AM2390. It deals with a number of issues and I have passed out the handout for that and that's the sheet that shows you what the current law is and what AM2390 would do. It lists about eight different areas where there would be changes made and these changes are very simple but they need to be done so that we can clarify the petition process for the initiative and referendum individuals. These are areas that you can see when you look and compare them to the current laws. It's laid out in the left-hand column and the proposed changes in AM2390 do merely that. They do clarify the situation that we find ourselves in with regard to the punishment aspect with regard to willfully and knowingly being uniformly used throughout the section. It states that signers must be registered voters by the time the petition is required to be filed with the Secretary of State for verification. It makes that a uniform requirement. This relates to the affidavit issue that is in current law that would go away with the adoption of this amendment. The third part is that the Secretary of State may grant additional time to verify those signatures to the county clerk or the election commissioner. This is an issue that was raised in our meeting and was raised by a number of different county clerks and a number of different election officials with difficulty that they have run into